

Rhode Island lobster fishermen are being asked to participate in a voluntary northeast lobster gear survey. The survey is the result of recommendations made by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team to improve reporting by harvesters on gear location, configuration and line strength. The survey is being funded by a NOAA Section 6 Species Recovery Grant administered by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR). Participating states are New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The objective of this survey is to provide data on lobster gear configurations which would better inform managers in developing alternatives to address large whale interactions with fixed gear while ensuring safe and practical operations for the fishing industry.

A second component of the grant is to conduct studies on the breaking strength of vertical lines currently in use, and on the amount of strain put on the vertical lines during different hauling conditions to help determine whether changes in the breaking strength of vertical lines will help decrease severe entanglements of right whales.

[To complete the survey, please click here. \[maine.gov\]](#)

